Indira Awas Yojana

*16. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to grant loan from HUDCO to the States for construction of houses under Indira Awas Yojana and other Rural Development Schemes/Programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c). The assistance is provided under Indira Awaas Yojana for construction of a house to the rural poor on 100% grant-in-aid basis. There is no proposal to provide loan from HUDCO to the States for implementation of IAY. However, presently HUDCO has a rural housing programme under which the State Governments do get loans from HUDCO through their housing development agencies.

Power Tariff

*17. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Power tariff in India 10 times that abroad" appeared in the `Economic Times' dated October 14, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the average power tariff at national level in the country is much higher than that in many other countries; and

(c) the power tariff in Norway, Sweden, America, France, Brazil and England separately and its comparison with its tariff in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The power tariff in Norway, Sweden, USA, France and U.K. applicable to Industrial and Domestic consumers, and its comparison to that with India is given in the enclosed Statement. The average power tariff for industrial consumers in India is higher than those in above countries other than U.K. However, the power tariff for domestic consumers in India is much lower than those in the above countries.

STATEMENT

Paise/Kwh
As on 1995-Ist Qtr.

	Country	Industrial	Domestic
1	2	3	4
1.	Norway	118	256
2.	Sweden	133	319
3.	USA	155	271
4.	France	185	490
5.	Brazil	NA	NA
6.	UK	228	406
7.	India (94-95)	221	91

NA - Not Available

Source - "Energy Process & Taxes IST 1995" IEA

Exploration of Gas

*18 SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since examined the Kinston Committee's report on the exploration of Gas and Oil in West Bengal basin;

(b) if so, the conclusion drawn from the report; and

(c) whether any action plan has since been worked out on the basis of the Kinston report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major conclusions of Mr. John Kinston's report on Bengal Basin area are :

(i) Additional 2D and 3D seismic data acquisition in some areas, which are already planned to be acquired during 1996-97.

(ii) Review and re-interpretation of existing data.

(iii) Further exploratory drilling may be taken up only after firming up very convincing closures and attributes for highest quality prospects. In any case no-drilling is recommended for three years.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Assam Gas Cracker Project

*19. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State

(a) the site chosen for the Assam Gas Cracker project and action so far taken to acquire and develop the area of the project after assessing environmental impact; and

(b) the assistance proposed to be given in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) 347 acres of land at Tengakhat, Dibrugarh has been handed over to the project. A further 903 acres is being